

REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed March 10, 2003, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 5,897,386 ("Baxter"). By the present amendment, claims 1, 4, 10 and 18 have been amended, and claims 21-23 have been added. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested. Claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-23 are currently pending.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Baxter. "A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegall Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Calif.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Because Baxter does not recite each and every element set forth in amended claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20, Baxter does not anticipate the electrical connector recited in amended claims 1-5, 7-16 and 18-20 of the present application.

Claims 1, 10 and 18 have been amended to require that the elongated body portion, which has a plurality of terminal receiving passageways, has a predetermined width along an entire length thereof which is bounded at opposite ends by enlarged end portions. Baxter does not disclose or suggest such a structure.

Baxter discloses an elongated body portion (30) which is bounded at either end by enlarged end portions (56 and 64). Baxter further discloses that piece (56) is provided at two different places between the enlarged end portions (56 and 64) such that the elongated body portion (30) does not have a predetermined width along the entire length thereof. Rather, the elongated body portion (30) has one width between the enlarged end portions when the two middle pieces (56) are not provided, and another width between the enlarged end portions (which is the same width of the enlarged end portions) where the two middle pieces (56) are provided.

Therefore, because Baxter does not disclose, teach or suggest a connector having all of the limitations of claims 1 and 18 or a connector housing having all of the limitations of claim 10, applicants submit that Baxter does not anticipate and does not render obvious the invention defined by claims 1, 10 or 18. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 10 and 18 is requested.

Claims 3, 4, 12 and 14 have been amended based on the amendments to claims 1 and 10.

Claims 2-5 and 19 are dependent upon amended claim 1 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 2-5 and 19 is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16 and 20 are dependent upon amended claim 10 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 11-16 and 20 is respectfully requested.

Claims 7-9 are dependent upon amended claim 18 which applicants submit is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of claims 7-9 is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections in view of the rewritten claims and in light of the above remarks, and allowance of all claims is respectfully requested.

With regard to the newly added claims 21-23, each of these claims depends from one of the independent claims 1, 10 and 18. Claims 21 and 23 specify an electrical connector as defined in claims 1 and 18, respectively, which has a plurality of terminal-receiving passages and a plurality of conductive terminals mounted in the terminal-receiving passages, with each terminal-receiving passage having only one of the plurality of conductive terminals mounted therein. Claim 22 specifies an electrical connector housing having a plurality of terminal-receiving passages as defined in claim 10, wherein each terminal-receiving passage is configured to receive only one conductive terminal therein. Baxter clearly does not disclose a connector with features as specified in claims 21-23.

In Figures 2 and 3 referenced by the Examiner, Baxter clearly does not disclose terminal-receiving passages which have only one conductive terminal mounted or received therein. Rather, Baxter clearly discloses a plurality of conductive terminals being mounted or received in a single terminal-receiving passage.

Therefore, because Baxter does not disclose, teach or suggest a connector having all of the limitations of claims 21 and 23 or a connector housing having all of the limitations of claim 22, applicants submit that Baxter does not anticipate and does not render obvious the invention defined by claims 21-23. Consideration and allowance of claims 21-23 is requested.

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conversation will facilitate the prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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